NEW LAWYER TAKES POST AS RUBY COUNSEL

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HOUSTON, Tex. (AP)—Percy Foreman, a criminal attorney, said Thursday he has agreed to replace Melvin M. Belli as chief counsel for Jack Ruby.

Ruby received the death penalty Saturday in Dallas for murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

Lost Only One

Foreman is president of the National Association of Defense Lawyers. He has handled more than 700 capital offense cases and has lost only one defendant to the electric chair.

Foreman's announcement in his Houston office followed Dallas reports that Ruby and his family had dismissed Belli, a California attorney, as Ruby's chief counsel.

Signed Contract Thursday

Foreman said he signed a contract Thursday with Eileen Kaminsky, a sister of Ruby, and with three of Ruby's brothers, Hyman Rubenstein, Chicago; Earl Ruby, Southfield, Mich.; and Sam Ruby, Dallas.

"We wanted Foreman in the first place," said Mrs. Kaminsky. "We preferred him to Belli. But Foreman was contacted by another man and there was some misunderstanding about what part Foreman would take in the case, so we went with Belli."

Agreed To Accept

Foreman explained that the intermediary, whom he declined to identify, called him four days after Oswald was slain Nov. 24 and asked him to defend Ruby.

"I agreed to accept the case," Foreman said, "but on these conditions: I was to be in complete charge. I was to be paid a reasonable fee and I was to be told where every dime of the fee came from.

"But the man told the Ruby family I wanted four times the amount I cited to him and they decided they could not afford me."

Asked what his fee will be for taking over the Ruby case, Foreman said only that it would be reasonable.